



New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

www.newcov-church.org

(302)378-4446



November 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE (CLICK ME)

[A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR.. 1](#)

[CALENDAR.....3](#)

(EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES)

[THANKSGIVING TRIVIA.....4](#)

[ADVENT BEGINS.....5](#)

[CLERK'S REPORT.....6](#)

[PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING....6](#)

[MISSION REPORT.....7](#)

[BUILDINGS & GROUNDS.....8](#)

[CHURCH SIGN UPDATE.....9](#)

[ALL SAINTS DAY.....10](#)

[FELLOWSHIP.....11](#)

[STEWARDSHIP.....13](#)

NCPC PRESENTS:

[HIGHLIGHTING OUR YOUNG](#)

[ADULTS.....14](#)



Dear friends,

Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:7)

Over the past several weeks, as I have been preparing for this year's Stewardship Campaign, I've been doing a good bit of reading. One of the books I've been enjoying is Andy Stanley's *Fields of Gold*. In the introduction to his book, Andy tells a brief story of his history of giving. I think we could all benefit from a synopsis of his personal story.

Andy says that "giving was simple" when he was a child. He was taught to take one dime out of every dollar he received, and put it in the offering plate. He never questioned this principle that he was taught, and it felt good to share a portion of his blessings. And, of course, since it wasn't money he had actually earned himself, he had no reservations or fear about sharing it.

Over the years, as his income increased, he noticed that he began to have a slight hesitancy about his giving. He still gave 1/10th of his income, but since that percentage was adding up to be thousands of dollars, something felt different. Concerns began to enter his mind: *What if I need this money for something else? Am I saving enough? What if I have an unexpected expense? Is anybody else giving this much?*

Stanley realized that, under the growing pressure to make ends meet each month, he was becoming irrational in his thinking about God, God's faithfulness, and his role as a steward of the resources with which God had blessed him. And, since that time, Andy discovered that he wasn't alone. For too many disciples of Christ, cheerful giving has become fearful giving, or not giving at all.

Why is it that we are fearful? It is normal to be concerned for our families, but any fear associated with giving to God's kingdom is irrational. Stanley points out that this is on par with a farmer who, out of fear of losing his seed, refused to plant his field. As absurd as that may sound, many of us are guilty of hoarding the financial seed that God intends to be sown for the harvest that is to come. And, it's usually because of fear.

Friends, the principle of sowing and reaping applies to our finances too. Those who sow generously can expect to reap generously, and receive a bountiful return. Allowing our concerns about the future to limit our giving makes no sense, and this fear even has the potential to rob us of our joy. And, Stanley says that "it's a fear that could cause us to handle our finances in a way that locks us and locks God out."

This year, as we once again reflect on our call to be cheerful and generous givers, let us open our hearts to consider ways we can experience even more joy, and increasingly share the Good News of God's love. Hope you join me in becoming an ever more generous giver for God!

Your partner in ministry,

Carol

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action



November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Craig Schaf- er's Funeral	4 Our Daily Bread	5
6 Deacons' Meeting	7 Bells @7pm	8	9 Choir @7pm	10	11	12
13 Steward- ship Brunch Trustees' Meeting	14 Bells @7pm	15	16 Choir @7pm	17	18	19
20	21 Bells @7pm	22	23 Choir @7pm	24 Thanks- giving	25	26
27 Advent Begins	28 Bells @7pm	29	30 Choir @7pm			

03—Bonnie Lawrence's Birthday

04—First Friday @ Our Daily Bread

06—Deacons' Meeting

Sandy Phillips's Birthday

13—Trustees' Meeting

14—Skip Leeson's Birthday

24—Russ Morris' Birthday

Note—The November and December Session Meetings have been combined and will be on December 4th.



Thanksgiving Trivia



Although you might immediately think "food" when you hear the word Thanksgiving, there's so much more to the November holiday than a table piled high with mouth-watering turkey recipes or side dishes you'll happily have thirds of. As a holiday rich in history, it's important to remember how the holiday started and why we celebrate it, as well as how different communities have created their own traditions and ways to show gratitude. That's where this Thanksgiving trivia comes in.

Whether you're waiting for mom to serve up her one-of-a-kind pumpkin pie recipe or you're feuding with your sister over who gets the last scoop of leftover stuffing, pull out a few of these interesting Thanksgiving trivia questions (and answers!) for a little pre- or post-turkey fun. It's even the perfect solution to entertain the younger kids who can't keep out of the kitchen while the adults finish cooking dinner. Make it a fun Thanksgiving game and keep track of who gets the most facts right. But most of all, be sure to give thanks for this time set aside to be with those we love.

Question: What town canceled Thanksgiving because they couldn't make pumpkin pies?

Answer: Cochester, Connecticut

Details: A frigid bout of cold weather in the middle of October led to the Connecticut River freezing, so settlers couldn't get their usual liquid sugar shipped on time from across the pond. Thus, the townspeople decided to postpone the holiday for a week in 1705. It was so legendary, Rose Mill Powers actually wrote a poem about it in a July 1908 issue of *Good Housekeeping*.

Question: What city is home to oldest Thanksgiving parade?

Answer: Philadelphia

Details: The Philadelphia Gimbel Brothers Department Store parade in 1920 had only 50 people, 15 cars and a fireman dressed as Santa Claus. The parade ended with Santa on his sleigh, signifying the arrival of the holiday season. Today, it's much bigger and called the 6abc Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade instead. It was the inspiration behind the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Day Parade which started in 1924.

Advent

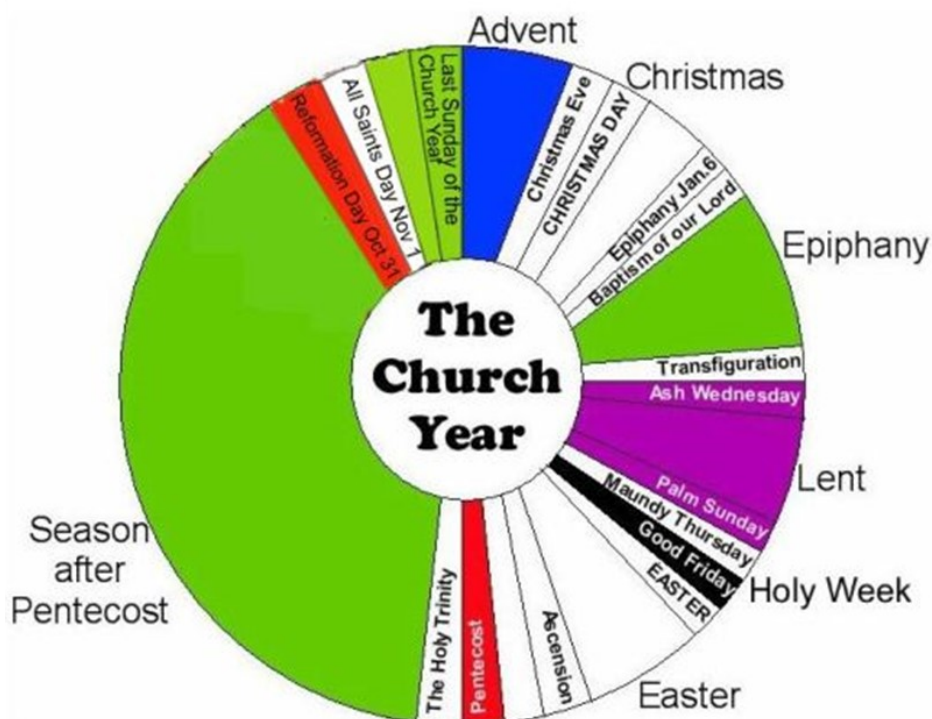
A SEASON OF HOPE AND EXPECTATION



Advent, which is the first season of the liturgical (church) calendar begins on 11/27 – the Sunday following Thanksgiving. It is a season which brings us a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. This season begins a four-week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

The Advent Season is all about helping us to prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world. It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is. There are many different traditions associated with the four weeks of Advent.

The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we, as followers of Christ, are called to commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. May we all be blessed by this holy season.



Clerk's Report

The Session was happy to welcome Barbara Bookhart to our October meeting. She is interested in becoming an active member and the Session fully endorses this move. She, Bob Megonigal and Jim Inners will be received as members in worship soon, so please take the time to warmly welcome them.

Barbara Montazella and Ben Urban, as well as our pastor, attended a New Castle Presbytery meeting on Zoom. They are very excited about the new denominational program called Vital Initiatives. More information to come.

Yours in Christ,

Pat Wright, Clerk of Session

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you Lord, for all your blessings,
And thank you Lord for all you do.
Thank you for our daily bread.
And thank you for your love so true.
Thank you for the breath of life
And for the bounty of the earth - so grand.
Thank you for this land of freedom,
And for the hope from your loving hand.
To live each day by steadfast faith,
Brings a peace beyond compare,
And thank you, Lord, for letting us know,
That you are always there.
And tho' we are unworthy,

Your love showers down from above,
With faith, hope, love - these three...
The greatest of these - is love.

Author, Charles Clevenger

Submitted by Alice Megonigal



Mission Report

OUR DAILY BREAD

We served 144 meals in October and several of our members attended the ODB Fundraiser.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Please consider our neighbors in need this holiday season; Thanksgiving & Christmas.

By donating the following non-perishable food items (which can be placed in the container at the back of the sanctuary); they will be delivered the week prior the holiday.

Suggestions: canned vegetables, fruit, cranberry sauce, & pumpkin, boxed instant mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry &/or apple juice, cornbread mix, mac & cheese box mix, brownie mix, cake mix & frosting, etc..

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's time to start packing our shoeboxes to allow a child to feel special and loved at Christmas. Start gathering your items and we will have the boxes soon.



Thanks a million for your generosity,

Pat Wright, Mission Elder
Jane Adams, NCC Liaison to Neighborhood House



CHURCH WORK DAY

The Oct. 15th Church Clean - Up Day was a success. Ten devoted church members, braved the perfect weather to work inside and outside to tidy up the church. Outside, Ivonne, Beth, Bill, and Al worked on cleaning up the weed growth in the parking lot and along the curbs. Win filled in trench ruts, and cleaned the mulch at the front of the church of weeds. Norma did double duty inside and outside. Jim did some pre-work the week before by trimming the bushes in front of the buildings. Inside, led by Janet, the crew of Jane and Barb cleaned widows in both buildings as well as disinfecting furniture in the Ed Building. Fred cleaned the walkway lights. There are still one or two items on the list that we not completed, but we will get to them in good time. My thanks to all for your help. It makes difference, when the facility is neat, clean and orderly. Physical work shared builds relationships that last!

You might notice that a couple of long standing items at the church have disappeared. One tree in the parking lot was removed by Bill, Al and Fred. This tree was blocking the parking lot light and was uplifting the curb. It had to go. The other missing items are the plastic playground houses. The Trustees determined that because they were of little use to our church family, in somewhat disrepair and an eyesore, we passed these items off to the UMC of Middletown Pre-School. They were happy to get these items and will be making a donation to our church.

Finally, we have signed a contract with LandCare to cut grass next year. Our grass cutting crew was dwindling and/or burned out. This adds to the financial burden of the church, but will be worth it to all who value the appearance of God's House of Worship.

Respectfully,

Fred Noll, Trustee

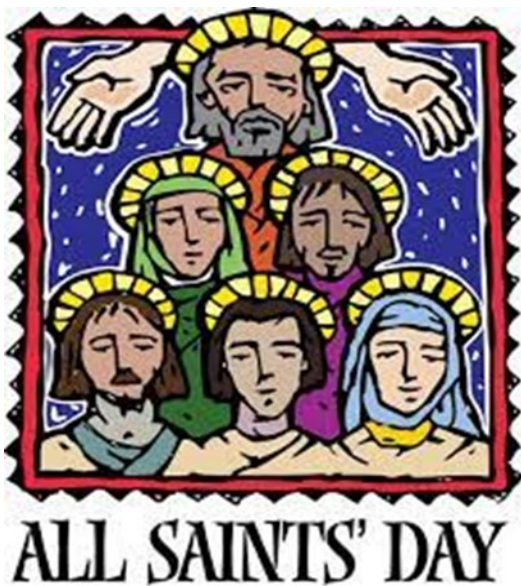


New Church Sign

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Have you noticed the progress made on our new sign? The sign was installed and now it has a large bed with beautiful stones surrounding it for future plants. The work was done by Next Level Hardscaping and made possible due to a gift by Beth Kramer's parents. In the spring, we plan on adding plants to make it a beautiful invitation to all who pass by and admire it. Take a look at give thanks to God. After all, it is the month of the year when we tend to think about all our blessings and give thanks. Let's make it a daily habit!





Let us Give Thanks
For Those Among
Our Church Family
Who Have
Passed Away Since
All Saints' Day Last Year
Tuesday, November 1st

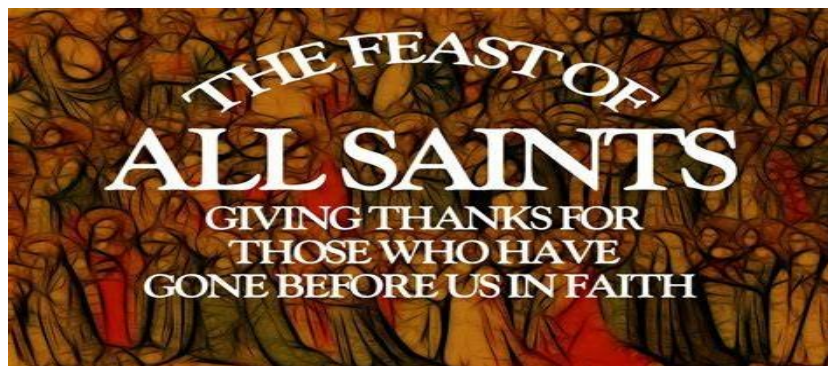
What is All Saints Day?

All Saints' Day is a special day to remember those who have blessed our lives who have died and now are in heaven. It is celebrated by many different Christian denominations. It honors all saints (known and unknown) whose life on earth has ended. While some saints have a particular day named after them, not all do.

For example, Saint Patrick is celebrated on St. Patrick's Day. All Saints' Day is meant to honor every saint!

New Covenant has been blessed by the lives of many saints over the years. Two have died since last year's All Saints Day. As this special day is almost here, we take this opportunity to give thanks for the lives of these two saints and how they blessed the lives of so many others. May they truly be at peace.

Don Bauer – December 3, 2021



Craig Schafer – October 27, 2022

Funeral/Visitation at Spicer-Mullikin on 11/3 at 12/1 pm

Fellowship

October

FALL HARVEST PARTY

On October 29th we were invited to the Shields home for our Annual Harvest Costume Fire Pit Party. The food was amazing and we would like to thank all who came out.



Where is this clown's smile?



Ever met a "cereal killer" before?
Wish I had a picture of him with his mask on!

This angel and devil are awfully cute!



Fellowship



Any idea who the creature with all the fur and long hair is? She must have forgotten her club!

All sorts of fun costumes, good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all!



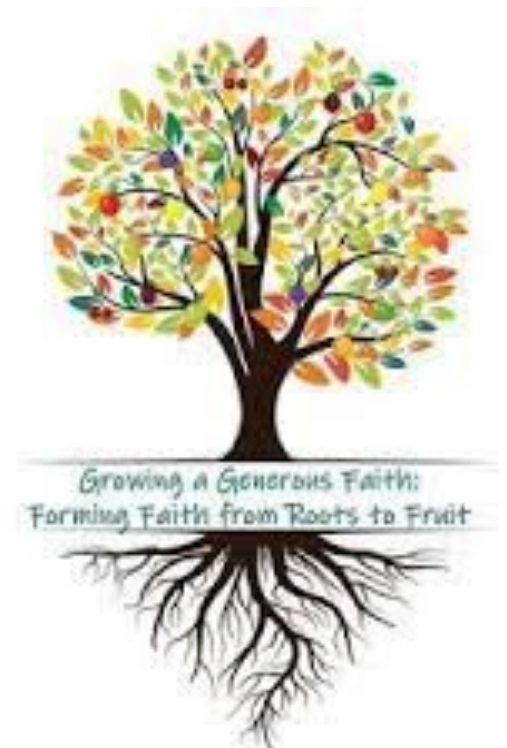
November

COMMITMENT SUNDAY BRUNCH

On November 13th, following our regular Sunday worship service we will celebrate Commitment Sunday by having a Stewardship Brunch to give thanks for the commitments we have made for 2023. Congregation members are welcome to bring either an egg casserole or a salad to share and coffee and drinks will be supplied following our service.



Thank you for your contribution!



Stewardship

A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, and returns them with increase to the Lord by sharing them lovingly with others.

Gifts are typically categorized as time, talent and treasure. But how do we practice this in everyday life?



STEWARDSHIP SCHEDULE FOR 2022

VARIETIES OF GIFTS, VARIETIES OF SERVICE, ALL IN ONE SPIRIT

Week of Oct. 16	Letter to the Congregation is mailed out and a newsletter article prepared for the November newsletter.		
Oct. 23	Stewardship Week 1 in Worship	Simple Trust in God The Gift of Childlike Faith Minute for Mission – Ben Urban	Mk. 10: 13-16
Oct. 30	Reformation Sunday / Stewardship Week 2	Minute for Mission – Fred Noll The Gift of Faith from our Ancestors	Ps. 104 & Mt. 22: 34-40
Nov. 6	Stewardship 3 in Wor- ship / Communion / Daylight Savings Time Ends	The Wisdom of Hope The Gift of Growing Older, Wiser, and More Faithful with Age; Minute for Mission – Pam Leeson	I Timothy 5: 1-2 I Peter 5:5 Luke 2: 25-40
Nov. 13	Commitment Sunday / Stewardship 4 in Worship / Congregation is invited to make com- mitments for 2023	A New Understanding and A New Call The Gift of God's Grace Potluck brunch following worship	Acts 10: 1-48

live in faith



You are invited to a time of Visitation (12 p.m.) followed by a Funeral (1 p.m.) on Thursday, November 3 for Craig Schafer. It will be held at Spicer-Mullikin Funeral Home, 275 East Main St., Middletown, DE.

Highlighting Our Young Adults

Like many congregations, we don't have the pleasure of seeing and appreciating our young adults very often. They are extremely busy with their life pursuits and I thought it would be good to have some updates on their journeys. So, enjoy the news about these graduates (either recently or in the near future) and let them know how much you love and appreciate them:



JOHN EASTER

John William Easter will graduate from Middletown High School in the spring of 2023. He plans on attending college and his goal is to receive a Masters degree in either cyber security or computer gaming, or have a dual major in both. He currently is looking into Delaware schools like the University of DE, Wilmington University and Del Tech. He would like to take advantage of the seeds program, and possibly receive a scholarship.



BRENDEN KIRK

Brenden is a senior at Appoquinimink High School and will be graduating in June of 2023. After graduation he will be going into the United States Marine Corps where he is looking at pursuing a career in intelligence or aircraft maintenance. We are very proud and supportive of his decision to take on a challenge like no other. We are honored to be the parents of a future Marine and cannot wait to see where this path takes him.

Highlighting Our Young Adults



GEORGIA MACKAY

Georgia will be graduating from University of Delaware this December, something that she is very much looking forward to. She will finish with a Bachelor's in Geography (with honors) to accompany her Associate's in Geographic Information Systems. In addition to working for our church and going to college full-time, Georgia is interning for the City of Wilmington where she is mapping lead pipes for an upcoming EPA mandate. Starting this month, she will be promoted to having a team of 9 graduate students working under her. She will accept Wilmington's offer of full-time work upon her graduation.



DANIEL MOODY

Daniel Moody finished his schooling at Folsom Lake Community College over the summer and has graduated with an AA in Small Business Management as well as an AA Social and Behavioral Sciences. Along with these degrees, he is set up with transfer degrees in case he wants to continue his education later on. He is currently training to become a tax professional and wishes to become an Enrolled Agent in the next few years.



ETHAN STOECKER

Ethan graduated from Appoquinimink High last June with a 4.3 GPA, ran Cross-Country his Senior Year, and played soccer for AHS and in Rec Leagues as a Left Back. He was active in the National Honor Society, and you may have caught him a few times at Our Daily Bread as a Runner.

Now a Freshman at U-D in the College of Engineering, he received a Presidential Scholarship of \$3,500/year, as long as he maintains a 3.0 GPA, which looks good as of his recent midterm exams. He hopes to work in the field of Prosthetics and assistive devices, and is considering doing a '4+1' to earn his Master's in Computer Science along with his Bachelor's Degree in Biomedical Engineering in a total of 5 years. He has joined an Intramural Gaming League and it gives him a break from his Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, Bio/Chem Lab and Philosophy course work.

Highlighting Our Young Adults



ELIZABETH STOECKER

Lizzy is a Senior at Appoquinimink High School, planning to major in Neuroscience starting next year at one of the colleges she's applied to. Presently she has a 4.5 GPA, and is a Vice President of the HOSA (Future Health Professionals) Chapter at AHS, and is active in Community Service through the National Honor Society.

You may have see her running down Main Street in Middletown in the after-school practices this Fall with others as Captain of the Girls' Cross-Country Team, or you may catch her at the Starbucks near the Acme, where she is working part time. Occasionally, she helps with Food Rescue for Our Daily Bread by picking up Caruso's donations of leftovers after her shifts.



MARK URBAN

Mark graduated Wilmington University in May 2022 with a Masters of Science in Cybersecurity. He worked full time for a computer consulting company while working on this degree. He begins work at J.P. Morgan Chase in the Cybersecurity Division on November 8th. He has recently purchased a home in Wilmington and he and his brother, Matthew, are in Army's Officer Candidate School.

TO THE YOUNG ADULTS OF NCPC,
WE LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU!!!

